

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00284 311300Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 IO-13 RSR-01 EUR-25

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 /170 W

----- 098826

R 311055Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1547

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: GERDENER ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION/PARTY

REF: A) PRETORIA 2567; B) DURBAN A-104, 20 OCT 1972

1. THEO GERDENER, FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR, HAS MADE PUBLIC SOME DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSED NEW "POLITICAL ORGANIZATION". IN INTERVIEW WITH NATAL MERCURY GERDENER SUGGESTED NEW ORGANIZATION'S PREMISE WOULD BE AMALGAMATION OF INDIANS AND COLOREDS WITH WHITES SO THAT WITHOUT LOSING THEIR "INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES" ALL THREE COULD ULTIMATELY EXIST IN ONE FREE STATE PROVIDING FULL EQUALITY FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS.

2. HIS POLICY TOWARD AFRICANS WILL BE TO CONSOLIDATE, THROUGH NEGOTIATION, THE NOW FRAGMENTED HOMELANDS INTO "ONE OR AT THE MOST A FEW LARGE BLOCKS" WHICH WOULD THEN BE GRANTED FULL INDEPENDENCE. AS INDEPENDENT STATES THEIR MIGRANT WORKERS LIVING IN A UNIFIED WHITE-INDIAN-COLORED

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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00284 311300Z

STATE WOULD BE TREATED AS ANY OTHER NON-NATURALIZED WORKING

RESIDENT IN THE REPUBLIC.

3. ALTHOUGH STRESSING THAT HE NOT ATTEMPTING UNDERMINE CURRENT POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE IN SA, GERDENER SAID HE HOPED TO ATTRACT INTELLIGENT, THINKING PEOPLE FROM ALL PARTIES "WHO WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO BLACKS, INDIANS AND COLOREDY ALIKE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SPECIFY WHETHER HIS NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION/PARTY WOULD BE MULTI-RACIAL.

4. COMMENT: AS USUAL MR. GERDENER'S LATEST PUBLIC STATEMENT

IS RATHER VAGUE AND ABSTRACT. ALTHOUGH IT DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER HIS ANNOUNCED PLANS MEAN THAT ACTION SOUTH AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASASA), FORMALLY CONCEIVED 19 OCT 1972 IN DURBAN, WAS STILLBORN, OR WHETHER HIS NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IS AN OUTGROWTH OF ASASA'S WORK DURING THE LAST NINE MONTHS, THE FORMER SEEMS MORE PROBABLE. ESPECIALLY SINCE ASASA WAS OSTENSIBLY FORMED AS AN APOLITICAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, HUMANITARIAN TRAINING OUTFIT (REFAIR) OF WHICH LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD. GERDENER'S SELF-STYLED CHARISMATIC IMAGE HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN NATAL AND NO DOUBT THE RECENT FORMATION OF VERLIGTE ACTION AND ITS ATTENDENT PUBLICITY HAS PROMPTED HIS MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES.
COMRAS

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